TIPS FOR PLANTING TREES

Be safe!
Contact "Iowa One Call" before your shovel hits the soil! Call 811 or visit www.IowaOneCall.Org

Rule of thumb: Dig shallow and wide. Planting holes should be two to three times the root ball width (the poorer the soil, the wider the hole). Planting holes should also be one to two inches shy of the root ball depth.

Planting Tip!
When planting in compacted sub-soil (typical for new developments) loosen the soil within and beneath the hole before planting.

Amending Planting Soil.
Backfill with composted organic matter (OM)- but not too much OM-one part (handful) OM to four parts (handfuls) of soil; striving for 5% OM.

Backfill After Planting.
Use thoroughly mixed amended soil to fill in around the tree. Water to settle the soil. Create a berm around the tree for watering purposes. Additional backfill may be needed to even the grade.

Don't Forget to Water.
Periodically water the tree as needed.

LONG-TERM TREE CARE

Mulching:
Mulch with hardwood mulch two to three feet around the tree, making sure to keep mulch away from the tree trunk. Prior to adding a hardwood mulch consider adding a one to two inch layer of compost first. As hardwood mulch decomposes it will pull nitrogen from the compost rather than the surrounding soil.

Irrigation:
Watering may be necessary, one to two times a week if it's hot, dry and windy and hasn't rained in awhile. One inch of rain per week is ideal, if less than that is received, supplemental watering may be needed depending on tree age and species.

INTERNET "TREESOURCES"

Arbor Day Foundation
www.arborday.org

Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources
www.IowaDNR.org/Forestry

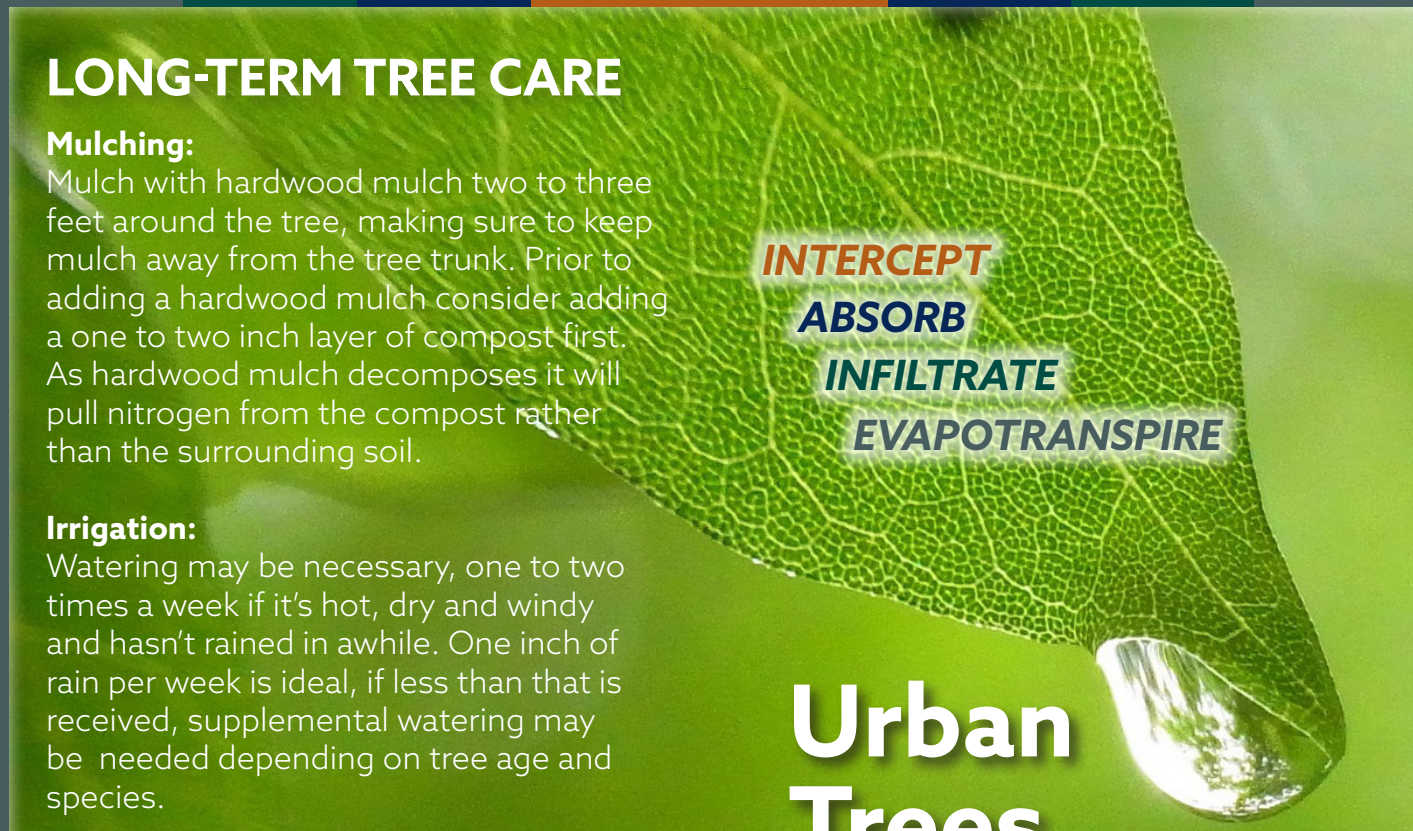
National Tree Benefit Calculator
www.TreeBenefits.com

Operation ReLeaf
www.alliantenergy.com

Plant Some Shade
www.MidAmericanEnergy.com

Trees Forever
www.TreesForever.org

USDA Northeast Community Tree Guide



Urban Trees *Reduce* Stormwater Runoff

IOWA STORM WATER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
ISWEP

www.IowaStormwater.org

Streets to Streams No Treatment in Between!

Rain quickly drains off impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots and streets carrying pollutants that accumulate on these surfaces.

Runoff from rainfall quickly makes its way to local creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes via storm drains.

Pollutants and flashy stream flows from runoff impacts our water bodies.

How Do Trees Help Control Stormwater Runoff?

Trees act as mini-reservoirs, controlling stormwater runoff at the source!

- Trees intercept and hold rain on leaves, branches, and bark. This decreases the amount of rainfall hitting the ground. They also shade and cool impervious surfaces.
- Trees increase infiltration and storage of rainwater through their extensive roots below ground so more rain soaks into the ground.
- Trees increase evapotranspiration by slowly releasing water back into the atmosphere.

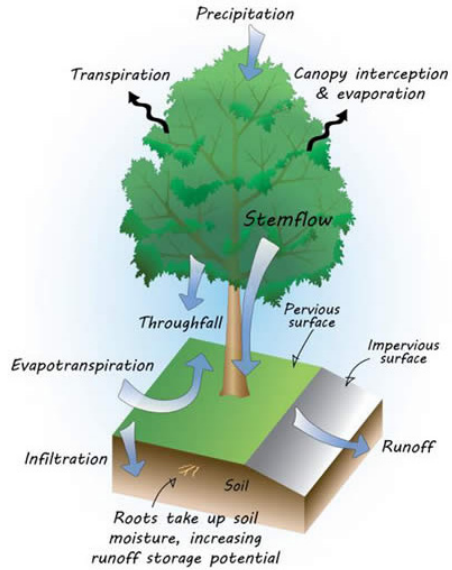
Trees provide many benefits beyond stormwater capture.

Trees provide habitat! Hundreds of critters and insects call trees their home.

Trees decrease the amount of atmospheric carbon via photosynthesis.

Trees provide energy conservation near homes by shading interior spaces and thus requiring less air conditioning.

Trees improve air quality, too!



Estimates are mature trees could intercept, infiltrate, and evapotranspire 300-1,600 gallons/per tree/per year!